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ULVERSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1953.



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ULVERSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1953.

ULVERSTON

December, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ulverston Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area, in acres	127,485
Population-Preliminary Census, 1951	17,244
-Registrar-General's estimate of home population, mid 1953	16,370
Number of inhabited houses	5,508
Rateable Value	£83,847
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£323.16.6

The district is entirely rural in character, the northern portion being typical Lakeland Country with lakes and fells merging into the more fertile southern portion which extends to the coast and forms part of the northern shore of Morecambe Bay. Two Lakes, Coniston and Esthwaite, as well as two-thirds of the shores of Lake Windermere are wholly contained in the district.

The principal industry is agriculture, with the hotel and catering industry playing a prominent part during the summer season.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1953 and for the preceding five years are given on page 2.

Of the 234 births registered, 123 were males and 111 were females. There were 4 illegitimate births, 1 male and 3 females. The number of deaths registered was again small and is considerably below the average of recent years.

Approximately 61% of the deaths were in persons of 65 years of age or over and the main causes of death were:- heart diseases 73, malignant growths 35 and vascular lesions of the nervous system 29.

Year.	Live Births.		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality.			
	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths- regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths- regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths- regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
1953	234	14.3	194	11.9	6	25	1	4.17	5	21	3	13
1952	247	15.1	196	12.0	4	16	nil	nil	1	16	1	16
1951	224	13.5	271	16.3	3	13	nil	nil	5	22	3	13
1950	232	13.9	228	13.6	7	29	nil	nil	4	17	2	9
1949	234	14.0	254	15.2	8	33	nil	nil	5	21	-	-
1948	282	16.4	219	12.7	12	40	nil	nil	5	17	-	-
Average 5 years. 1948 - 1952	-	14.6	-	14.0	-	26	-	-	-	19	-	8
* Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.09) = 15.6 per 1,000. Adjusted death rate (comparability factor, 0.81) = 9.6 per 1,000.												

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year.	England and Wales.	160 smaller towns. 25,000-50,000	Ulverston Rural District.
	Birth Rate. Death Rate.	Birth Rate. Death Rate.	Adjusted Birth Rate. Death Rate.
1953	15.5 11.4	15.7 11.3	15.6 9.6
1952	15.3 11.3	15.5 11.2	16.4 9.7
1951	15.5 12.5	16.7 12.5	14.7 13.2
1950	15.8 11.6	16.7 11.6	15.2 11.2
1949	16.7 11.7	18.0 11.6	15.3 12.5

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:- J. L. WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chir.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:- Medical Officer of Health -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District, Grange-over-Sands Urban District, Ulverston Urban District.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1 -
Lancashire County Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:- H. C. CLAYDON, Certificate -
Royal Sanitary Institute.
Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute-Meat and other Foods.

Sanitary Inspector:- H. E. BINGHAM, Certificate -
Royal Sanitary Institute.
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute-Meat and other Foods.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The townships to the west and south of Ulverston derive their water supplies from the Barrow Undertaking and those adjacent to Grange from the Grange Undertaking. The water in both cases is treated before going into supply. Most of the remaining parishes have their own separate supplies which are untreated, the installation of chlorinating plants authorised by the Council in 1951 not yet being complete.

During the year 18 samples were taken from the public supplies and submitted to bacteriological examination. Only nine of them proved to be satisfactory and as all eighteen samples were from untreated supplies, further emphasis is given to the need for chlorination of supplies to the larger centres of population.

Fifteen samples were taken from private supplies of which only five proved to be satisfactory.

The table on page 5 shows the number of dwelling-houses and numbers of population supplied with water from public mains and from private sources in the parishes of the Ulverston Rural District at the end of 1953.

The number of dwelling houses with a supply direct to the house now totals 4006 compared with 3963 in 1952.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Particulars of existing methods of disposal of sewage in the various townships of the Rural District are given on the following pages. The large number of separate sewage systems will be noted. Many of the treatment works are old and produce an effluent which does not comply with present day requirements. The Council will, therefore, in the future be faced with the necessity of improving or replacing some of the works.

Water Supplies to houses.

From Public Mains.

TOWNSHIP.	Direct to houses.		By means of stand-pipes		<u>From private wells and springs etc.,</u>	
	No. of dwelling houses.	No. of population.	No. of dwelling-houses.	No. of population.	No. of dwelling-houses.	No. of population.
Aldingham.	273	939	-	-	5	18
Allithwaite Lower.	466	1273	-	-	42	184
Allithwaite Upper.	214	728	-	-	10	36
Angerton.	-	-	-	-	5	23
Blawith.	-	-	-	-	37	117
Broughton East.	27	103	-	-	25	109
Broughton West.	270	847	-	-	39	137
Cartmel Fell.	19	61	-	-	98	265
Claife.	142	380	-	-	31	119
Colton.	16	70	-	-	304	1062
Coniston.	295	923	2	7	43	165
Dunnerdale.	-	-	-	-	61	190
Egton with Newland.	111	326	-	-	162	556
Haverthwaite.	199	584	4	6	55	269
Holker Lower.	403	1326	-	-	46	183
Kirkby.	388	1183	-	-	41	197
Hawkshead.	208	552	-	-	19	81
Lowick.	34	115	-	-	44	171
Mansrigg.	1	5	-	-	10	50
Osmotherly.	45	82	-	-	46	156
Pennington.	386	1175	-	-	8	33
Satterthwaite.	-	-	-	-	106	336
Skelwith.	-	-	-	-	92	256
Staveley.	99	258	-	-	34	110
Subberthwaite.	9	30	-	-	15	47
Torver.	-	-	-	-	36 24	196
Urswick.	373	1129	1	3	5	19

Sewage disposal.

<u>Township.</u>	<u>Village.</u>	<u>Method of Disposal.</u>
Aldingham.	Leece	Sewage tank with land irrigation.
	Gleaston	Sewage tank.
	Scales	Two sewage tanks with overflow to land.
	Baycliffe	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
Allithwaite Lower.	Newbiggin	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
	Allithwaite	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters outfall to sea.
	Cartmel	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters outfall to River Eea.
Allithwaite Upper.	Lindale	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to River Winster.
	Newton	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to stream.
Broughton East.	Field Broughton	Sewage tank.
Broughton West.	Broughton-in-Furness	Sewage tank with overflow to the tidal waters of the River Duddon.
	Foxfield	Tidal waters of the River Duddon.
Claife.	Near Sawrey	Sewage tanks.
	Far Sawrey	Two sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
	Colthouse	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
Colton.	Bouth	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
	Oxenpark	Sewage tank with overflow to land.
Coniston.	Coniston	Five large sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
Egton.	Greenodd	Tidal waters of Morecambe Bay.
	Pennybridge	Sewage tank.
Haverthwaite.	Haverthwaite	Sewage tank with overflow to river.
	Backbarrow	Sewage tank with overflow to River Leven.

Hawkshead.	Hawkshead	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Outgate	Two sewage tanks with outfall to land and stream.
	Hannakin	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Holker Lower.	Cark	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
	Ravenstown	Sewage tank and filters.
	Flookburgh	Pumping plant discharging sewage to enlarged works at Ravenstown with outfall to stream.
Kirkby Ireleth.	Sandside	Tidal water of River Duddon.
	Beckside	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Chapples	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Soutergate	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
	Marsh Side	Sewage tank with outfall to Tidal waters.
Lowick.	Lowick Green	Sewage tank with outfall to River Crake.
Osmotherley.	Beehive	Tank with outfall to stream.
	Three Bridges	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Pennington.	Swarthmoor	Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council.
	Trinkeld	Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council.
	Loppergarth	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters and outfall to stream.
	Cross a Moor	Sewage tank and outfall to land.
Satterthwaite.	Satterthwaite	Private sewer to works with outfall to stream.
Staveley.	Staveley	Private sewer tank with outfall to stream.
Torver.	Torver	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Urswick.	Great Urswick	Sewage tanks with outfall to tarn.
	Little Urswick	Sewage tanks with outfall to tarn.
	Stainton	Sewage tanks with outfall to land.
	Bardsea	Sewage tanks with outfall to sea.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of food, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report, as also are particulars of registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 and 1948.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during 1953.

HOUSING.

During the year 24 houses were erected by the Council and 22 by private builders. At 31st December, 56 houses were under construction by the Council, disposed as follows:- Coniston 6, Lindale 4, Flookburgh 26, High Row 4, Pennybridge 8, Sparkbridge 8. Further schemes are contemplated at Kirkby-in-Furness, Broughton-in-Furness, Haverthwaite, Lindale, Cartmel and Allithwaite.

Statutory Inspections and Proceedings.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	191
	(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose.	492
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1. above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	Nil
3.		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	3
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	174

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.	32
--	----

1.

- (b)

2.

- (b)

3.

- (b)

4.

- (b)

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the numbers of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Rural District during the five years 1948 - 1952 compared with the numbers in 1953.

Disease.	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953. Number of cases.	Removed to hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet fever.	37	23	46	10	21	25	14	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Measles.	186	12	237	171	70	185	2	0
Whooping cough.	50	30	42	77	36	13	1	0
Puerperal fever and Pyrexia.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia.	15	12	7	21	19	20	0	7
Cerebro-spinal fever.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas.	5	3	3	5	1	2	0	0
Dysentery.	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Enteric.	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Para-typhoid fever.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polio-Encephalitis.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis.	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning.	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS.	298	83	336	278	149	245	17	7

The outbreak of measles occurred during the first quarter of the year.

The decrease in the number of cases of whooping cough is worth noting, because, although there is as yet no national policy of whooping cough immunisation such as there is for diphtheria immunisation, it is known that a number of infants are being immunised against both diseases by their private practitioners. It would of course be rash to draw any hard and fast conclusions from the above figures and the trend in future years must be observed.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the new cases and mortality during 1953.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
15-	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
20-	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
25-	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
65-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75 and upwards.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS.	6	3	2	1	3	1	1	0
	9		3		4		1	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston Rural District Residents during the past twelve years.

Year	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1942	14	4	2	0	2	0	0	1
1943	11	14	3	5	3	3	1	0
1944	12	13	5	4	4	5	1	0
1945	5	5	5	7	1	3	0	0
1946	9	3	2	2	2	1	1	1
1947	6	8	6	7	1	2	0	0
1948	9	10	5	3	1	0	0	2
1949	11	6	5	6	1	2	0	0
1950	9	4	5	3	3	0	1	0
1951	12	5	2	3	2	1	0	1
1952	8	4	2	3	1	0	1	0
1953	6	3	2	1	3	1	1	0

FACTORIES ACT. 1937 and 1938.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	33	38	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	59	36	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT. 1948 and 1951.

In June a report was made to me on the state of a man of 85 years of age living at Coniston. On investigation it was found that he was living alone in insanitary conditions and was unable to devote to himself proper care and attention. As it was urgently necessary to remove him to hospital a magistrates order was obtained and he was removed to Stanley Hospital, Ulverston. The order lapsed but the man stayed in hospital voluntarily, where he died in March 1954.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Rural District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspectors, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

The report of the Sanitary Inspectors is appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Water Supplies.

At the end of the year 1951 it appeared likely that within the following twelve months chlorinating plants would be installed at some at least of the larger public water supply plants, but owing to certain difficulties none of these plants were in operation by the end of 1953. Continued liability to contamination both from animal and human sources was revealed by topographical surveys carried out during the year. Whilst the Council continues to have little control of the gathering grounds for their several supplies, resulting in easy access by animals and even human beings, the only certain way to ensure safe supplies is to instal treatment plants capable of destroying all pathogenic organisms.

It is rather ironical that whilst there is some complacency in accepting public water supplies subject to gross contamination, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will on no account approve similar supplies for livestock and milk cooling.

It is hoped that a more encouraging report can be made at the end of 1954.

Severage.

It is gratifying to know that the Council have under consideration the purchase of a mechanical pump and tank for use in the regular emptying and cleansing of the many sewage disposal plants which are scattered throughout the area and which cannot be satisfactorily dealt with by hand. Further when this is in operation, it is intended that the ratepayers in general may have the use of it for the many privately owned septic tanks, at a cost to be arranged. At the moment great difficulty is met when such tanks require emptying, as the only method possible is to bucket the sludge on the ground immediately adjoining, a practice which is most unsatisfactory, causing nuisances from smell and flies.

During the year representation was made to the Education Authorities and School Managers regarding the very low standard of sanitation of many schools in the Council's area. We are pleased to report that a marked improvement has since been made in all but 4 of the schools and at 3 of these schemes are being considered for the installation of water borne sanitation.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

We are pleased to report that no outbreaks of illness resulting from the consumption of unfit foodstuffs was notified during the year. In a district serving so many holiday-makers this reflects considerable credit upon the many caterers and food shops in the area. There is no cause for relaxation in the inspection of food premises however, and this work has continued unabated. Opportunity was taken to drive home the salient points to be observed in the handling of food when we were asked to give lectures to Civil Defence personnel.

During the year 82½ lbs. of foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit, and this weight included the following.

Tinned Luncheon Meat, Ox tongues, Ham and minced loaf.	26 lbs.
Tinned fruit, Preserves, Beans and tinned milk.	56½ lbs.

Milk and Dairies.

The work of raw milk sampling has continued throughout the year, 110 samples having been taken and examined for B. Tuberculosis.

In no case was tuberculosis found and we feel that considerable satisfaction can be drawn from this state of affairs, which could well be brought to the notice of the public in the area.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

37 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and only one is registered for manufacture.

Casual visits were made to the premises and in no instance was any action necessary for any possible infringement of the regulations.

Cwing to the scattered nature of the area, it has not been possible to take samples of ice cream for bacteriological examination, as by the time such were received in liquid form by the Pathological Laboratory at Barrow-in-Furness, a false report would result.

It is intended to either purchase or have made a lead lined insulated collecting apparatus which by the use of Cardice would ensure samples arriving at the Laboratory in the same condition as purchased.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The collection and disposal of house refuse continued smoothly throughout the year. In the early months of the year it must be admitted that weather conditions caused some delay in the fortnightly service but this was unavoidable, as during and after heavy snow it is impossible to carry out a normal days work in the allotted time. The conversion of a number of earth closets added to the number of ashbins to be emptied, but this was countered in the reduced number of closets to be emptied. By the end of the year, earth closets were being emptied at nine weekly intervals, which represents an improvement of about three weeks compared with three years ago.

With the provision of more new houses the ashbin service was again stretched to its limit, and some consideration to this point must be given very soon, either by increasing the number of vehicles and staff or by replacing the smaller vehicles by larger ones so that time can be saved in travelling to the tipping sites.

The character of the refuse collected during the year followed the same pattern as in former years. Thus in the first five months of the year there was a high percentage of coal ash to be dealt with and this greatly helped the development of the tipping sites. From June onwards until September however the amount of coal ash diminished greatly for the obvious reason that there were few household fires, and the refuse during this period consisted mainly of tins, bottles, and great quantities of waste paper. Such material renders tip control difficult and much time had to be spent on sorting out and burning the paper. It would greatly assist the working of refuse disposal if the householders would burn their own paper, despite repeated reminders few co-operate.

The annual cost of refuse collection has risen steadily during the last few years, and this has been due in the main to increased wages for manual labourers and increases in the cost of motor fuel and repairs. At the time of writing this report there seems little likelihood that the trend has reached its peak. Considerable thought has been given to possible ways of reducing the cost without reducing the efficiency of the service but we are of the opinion that there is no solution to this problem.

Housing.

During the year 32 families were re-housed in new Council House property in the Rural Area, and the number of applicants on the waiting list at the end of the year was in the region of 200 families.

It must again be pointed out however that the waiting list is not a true reflection of the Housing needs of the area, as a re-survey of Housing has been carried out, indicating no less than 220 low category houses which must eventually be either demolished or renovated, plus 65 houses in existing Clearance Areas. The high rentals of Council houses as against these old rent restricted cottages is in our opinion the only thing which is preventing hundreds of families from applying for houses with modern amenities.

Rodent Control.

This very important branch of the Health Department has continued smoothly throughout the year.

The poison mostly used was "Warfarin" which is by far more economical, time saving and efficient in all circumstances where the baits can be protected from dampness. Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic are still used on special treatments, but the necessary pre-baiting with oatmeal etc. for 3 days before the poison can be laid proves costly in so scattered an area.

All of the Council's Refuse Depots were satisfactorily treated for rat infestations on at least 2 occasions during the year and in addition 325 private dwellings were dealt with for rats and mice. Sewer treatments throughout the Council's area were carried out on 2 occasions, and it is interesting to note the decline of infestation since the poison "Warfarin" was introduced.

General.

In all 82 nuisances under the Public Health Act were dealt with, 70 of which required only the correct approach or informal letters before they were satisfactorily abated. Only 5 Statutory Notices were required to be served and in no instance was it necessary to take legal proceedings.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

H. C. CLAYDON.
H. E. BINGHAM.

Sanitary Inspectors.

